PRESIDENT : The question has already been answered.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : May I know whether the Government propose to improve that road and make it cartable in the near future ?

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*) : Yes ; we intend to take up the bridge during the coming year ; funds have been provided for that in the budget.

Audit of Railway accounts.

4.* **MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are checking and auditing the receipts and expenditure of the Shencotta-Quilon and the Quilon-Trivandrum Railways ; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the name, status and pay of the officer who is deputed for that work ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : The accounts of the Company are audited by the auditors of the Government of India ... .

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : I cannot catch even a syllable.

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : The accounts of the Company are being audited by an auditor of the Government of India, and such audited accounts are accepted by the Government here.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : My question is whether the Government of Travancore are checking and auditing the expenditure on the Quilon-Shencotta Railway.

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : They are not doing it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know why ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : There is no provision for that in the agreement with the Company ; and we accept the audited accounts of the Government of India.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is the member saying that there is no provision in the agreement for the auditing and checking of the accounts ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Yes ; there is no provision for auditing by this Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know whether the Government of Travancore is entirely to depend upon the audit by the Government of India ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Yes, at present.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know the terms of the agreement ?

PRESIDENT : That does not arise.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know whether the audit report of the Government of India is received here annually ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : May I know whether this Government is entitled to ask the Government of India for any details with regard to the audit report ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : We have been accepting the audited accounts of the Government of India. So far, there has been no occasion to call for any further information.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Am I to understand that, on a scrutiny of the accounts received from the Government of India, Government have been convinced that there was no necessity for further information ?

MR T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : We do not *scrutinise* the accounts ; we *accept* them.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Without scrutiny ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know whether Government consider it feasible to approach the Government of India to give us permission to audit the Railway accounts in view of the very small income we are getting from the Railways ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : According to the present agreement, we have no right to audit the accounts ourselves.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : I am asking whether the Government consider it feasible or necessary to approach the Government of India to enable us to audit the accounts in view of the very small amount of money that we are getting from the Railways.

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Government do not think it feasible.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know whether the Government have made any attempt in that direction hitherto ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Government made an attempt.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : When was it ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Some years ago.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : May I know whether it is not more desirable and proper to have the Railway accounts audited by our own Accounts staff ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : It may be desirable, but it is not very easy. The accounts are audited by the Government of India Auditors.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : Had the Government any idea of having the accounts audited by a special staff?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : No.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the Government pay anything for the services rendered in auditing such accounts ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : No.

Silting up of the sea near the Alleppey Pier.

5.* **MR. K. M. KRISHNAN** (*Ambalapuzha II*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn by the Travancore Chamber of Commerce to the silting up of the sea near the pier at Alleppey with the consequence that the pier has become useless ; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to do anything in the matter in the near future?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Government contemplate, if necessary, obtaining the services of an expert to investigate and report on the causes of sand accretion and have in the meanwhile ordered immediate steps for dredging the sand now accreted.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : Sir, in view of the periodical occurrence of the silting up of the sea at the Alleppey Port, do the Government think it an urgent necessity to immediately consult an expert and do the needful in the matter ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Government are considering the appointment of an expert.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : On a point of order. A member puts a supplementary question and this I understand only bears on the main question which has already been given notice of. I would like to know whether the Government Member concerned is entitled to say that he claims notice.

PRESIDENT : Yes.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is not the Government member who is to answer the question expected to post himself well with all the facts connected with the question ?

PRESIDENT : That is not a point of order.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly